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## MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Hi Neighbors,

**“Community is much more than belonging to something; it’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter.” — Brian Solis**

Community and connection are really what make life. It’s the relationships, the self-connection, and the Community that create so much meaning in life! Whether it’s sharing laughs with friends, finding support when things get tough, or just feeling acceptance, there’s real magic in coming together.

A Community is so much more than people sharing a space. It’s a living, breathing network of connections and shared experiences. While it’s usually defined as “a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common,” my feelings are true Community runs much deeper than that.

**Diversity** — It doesn’t matter how different we are. What matters in building a Community is the desire to live in a peaceful, caring and safe environment, despite all our differences.

**Good Neighbors** — When living at Lafayette Place Mobile Home Park, we hope to have Neighbors who can transform a Park from a “**Community of Renters**” to a “**Community of Neighbors**”. We all need to be surrounded by Neighbors who genuinely care for the well-being of others. Only this type of Neighbor can create a Community that is more than just a bunch of individuals living next to each other.

**It Starts with You** — Building a strong Community starts with Joining Your Resident-Union. As long as you are kind and willing to help others in need, you’ll be a Great Union Member. In exchange, your Community will give you a sense of belonging and the feeling that you are never alone.

### WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?

There’s a quote attributed to Confucius that says, “We have two lives, and the second begins when we realize we only have one.”

It’s oh-so-true — and it’s that second life where most people start to think about leaving a legacy. Whether it’s leaving a legacy for your family, **building an organization that outlasts you**, writing the book that shapes thinking for centuries to come ... legacy is a way of “passing on the essence of one’s self, in

particular one's values and beliefs. Legacy is a method of leaving something behind after death and making meaning of the end of life."

When push comes to shove, how do you decide what legacy you want to leave after you're gone? The answer lies in what you're meant to do while you're alive. This may sound counter-intuitive, but think about it this way: it's your legacy. It has to come from that core version of yourself, that which is most important to you.

### **MR. MIKE'S NEIGHBORHOOD IS MY LEGACY!**

I've been fortunate to be successful at just about everything I've touched. But many of the decisions I've made in my past life have been pretty selfish, things that would ultimately benefit my life. Don't get me wrong, I was still a nice person, I just didn't care much on how my decisions affected others. So, when I started Mr. Mike's Neighborhood because I saw a need, it totally went against the philosophy used in "my life". Once I made the decision to start the Association, my life's decisions became secondary since I made the commitment to care for 250 families in my Community. And as the years went on, and I recognized the issues affecting my Neighbors, just being a Neighborhood Association wasn't enough. Thus, I, with the anonymous vote of our Community, started Mr. Mike's Neighborhood Resident-Union. And now, once I pass (which hopefully won't be for a while yet), the Resident-Union will remain forever controlled by the Union Members.

### **WE'RE BRINGING THE COURTS TOGETHER WITH FREE HOTDOGS**

Now that we're receiving a lot of press, donations and Union dues are coming in, fees we receive from grass cutting and my golf club is putting on a fundraiser June 30 to raise money for us, we will be able to bring our Community together with some smaller events. The first will be for Cour Marie and our surrounding Lafayette Blvd Neighbors where we will have a free hotdog, chips and pop event right in the common area. This will allow all the Neighbors at Cour Marie to meet each other, and learn more of what Mr. Mike's Neighborhood Resident-Union has done, and what we plan to do in the future. We will have this event in every Cour throughout the summer. You'll receive a notice when each Cour's event is. RSVP will be necessary so we know how much food to get. Bring a chair or blanket and please plan on attending.

### **CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION ARE BACK**

Money does drive events. We originally had to cancel this since we didn't have the money, and honestly, we didn't know if anyone appreciated it since we seldom get a thank you. But we still feel it's important to let our Neighbors know they are appreciated for making our Community look beautiful and festive. So here's your advanced notice on when they'll arrive:

- \* July — Beautiful Property Certificate
- \* August — Beautiful Garden Certificate
- \* October — Beautiful Halloween Decorations Certificate
- \* December — Beautiful Christmas Decorations Certificate

### **FINAL THOUGHT:**

I know that some of you feel that Mr. Mike's Neighborhood is a joke, and that Mr. Mike is just this old man who has nothing better to do with his life. I was told this by Sun Communities and their lawyer. But for almost 4 years, whatever you felt my intentions were, I and Miss Linda were the only ones, **the only ones** who have stepped forward to help provide a better Quality of Life for our Neighbors. We provide food, books, clothing, advocacy, counseling and more, never gave up on you, and did it with our own money. Now, you have the opportunity to care for other Neighbors than yourselves.

For as long as you live here, joining the Resident-Union will help us to continue our efforts and make Lafayette Place Mobile Home Park the GEM it should be, with the best Neighbors around. **JOIN US!**